Appl. No. 09/944,244 Amd. Dated July 22, 2003 Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** 

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, and 25-26 have been examined and rejected. Claims 8, 16, and

24 have been deemed to be directed toward allowable subject matter. The present response

cancels claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24-26 without prejudice, and amends claims 1, 6-7, 9, 14-15,

17, and 22-23. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-12, 14-15, 17-20, and 22-23 remain pending.

Entry of the present amendment after final, reconsideration, and allowance of all pending claims

are respectfully requested.

To expedite prosecution, the independent claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended to

incorporate the limitations of claims 8, 16, and 24. Accordingly, claims 1, 9, and 17 should now

be in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims, being dependent on claims 1, 9,

and 17 should also be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for

allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference

would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the

undersigned at (408) 446-8694.

Respectfully submitted,

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